

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please replace the first paragraph under the heading “BACKGROUND”, and extending from lines 4-5 with the following paragraph.

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/626,939, filed July 27, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/833,752, filed April 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,448,375, ~~6,448,395~~, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/810,028, filed Mar. 3, 1997, now abandoned, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to EP 96870021.1, filed March 1, 1996, and EP 96870102.9, filed August 6, 1996.--

On page 8, please replace the last full paragraph with the following paragraph:

--Advantageously, said antibody is a monoclonal antibody which is preferably directed to an epitope of the peptide according to the invention and present on the surface of a cell expressing said peptide. One embodiment of the instant invention is an antibody which binds to a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising residues 792 to 884 of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said polypeptide has the same reading frame as the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.--